

# Framed Proposals

## From scores of admirers adorn heiress boudoir.



Now that the London season has drawn to a close, society people are expressing their amazement that Margaretta Drexel is still heart-whole. When the American heiress went through last season without falling in love with

some one of the many titled suitors who were in constant attendance upon her, people were mildly surprised. Now that she has survived a second season, although it is an open secret that she can have her pick of the most eligible bachelors and youthful sons of great families in Great Britain, they can hardly believe their senses.

The recent report that the dainty Margaretta had decorated her private room with framed proposals of marriage from her admirers sent a thrill of genuine apprehension up and down many a titled spine, for only Margaretta can tell how many of the peers that are and peers that will be have committed their heart yearnings to scented paper.

The Drexel girl's career in London society has been brilliant enough to satisfy the utmost desires of a socially ambitious debutante or her proud mother. Both the King and the Queen commented on her loveliness two years ago, when she made her initial appearance in English society, as she passed in the presence chamber in her sweeping ivory draperies at Buckingham Palace. Later, when the presentations were over, Queen Alexandra, who is a great admirer of feminine beauty, came up to Margaretta and said:

"I did not catch your name as you went by. How beautiful, you are!"

**A Beautiful Girl.**  
No picture gives an adequate idea of the young girl's loveliness because of its ever varying expression. Her coloring, too, one of her great charms, is lost in a photograph. It has been the dream of Sargent and Shannon to paint her, but the wayward beauty has not yet found time for the sittings. For so young a girl her individuality is strong and her complexity

is one source of concern to her friends. Combined with decided religious instincts is a love of life and enjoyment, innocent pranks and fun. Were she not so kind-hearted, she would be of the order that loves to poke fun at the stupidities of others. It was surely her acute sense of humor which inspired her to ornament her boudoir with the framed letters of admirers, most of whom she has never even seen. It is only her dearest and nearest friends who are admitted to this sanctum. A great lover of Christina Rossetti, a quotation from one of her poems is illuminated on vellum over the mantelpiece. It runs: "There is a room where no one enters save I myself alone; There sits a blessed memory on a throne, there my life centers."

**Furnishing of Boudoir.**

This apartment is at the top of the house. It is a large double room at the back, surprisingly quiet considering the position of Carlton House Terrace. Every article of furniture and ornament in it has been selected by Miss Drexel, and it naturally reflects the tastes of its owner. Daintiness and freshness distinguish it. The furniture is of white enamel with beautiful gilt fittings. The polished floor is covered with Oriental rugs in deep, rich blue and brown with splashes of gold. Curtains of dull blue brocade are at the windows, while the blinds, like those of the rest of the house, are finished with bands of real lace. The room proclaims no period, a determination arrived at by the young hostess, who said she must have a free hand in purchasing its ornaments. She realized that if she selected a period it would immediately tie her down and her idea was to gather round her anything and everything which appealed to her, whether it was from Hong-kong or Paris.

The privileged visitor will be struck by the number of exquisite little statues of saints that are to be seen within this sanctum, while a crucifix of beautiful workmanship and picture of the Virgin and Child may seem incongruous with framed declarations of devotion to the mistress of the room from, as she says herself, "some crazy unknown admirers." Flowers are everywhere. They bloom in tiny specimen glasses, in great Oriental China



bowl. Violets, snowdrops, and crocuses and other spring blossoms are her favorites, but these are not to be had in August, and it is roses and carnations quite simply arranged which now decorate the boudoir of the millionaire's daughter.

**Books in Her Room.**

At the left of the room is a well-filled bookcase. Bound in white calf with gilt edges are the works of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Christina Rossetti, Longfellow, Mark Twain, Bret Harte and others. In a corner is a lute, possibly selected because of its picturesque effect. An easel testifies to the artistic instinct of the owner. On it is a half-finished head of a child in crayons drawn in broad, bold lines which suggest, were the artist to aspire, she would some day do very fine work.

There are specially presented photographs of several royalties, bearing some courteous remark in writing above the signature. These include one of Queen Alexandra, which was given to Margaretta by her majesty last August when she and King Ed-

ward visited the "Margaretta," the Drexels' sumptuously appointed yacht. It was during the Cowes week and the King and Queen took tea with

MISS DREXEL FROM PENCIL SKETCH BY THE DUCHESS OF RUTLAND.



MARGARETTA DREXEL.

went that when dancing was at its height Margaretta stole away to this retreat and, when looked for, was found saying her prayers. At that time hooliganism was far more general than this season, and it was the custom for bands of social marauders at a ball to invade every apartment in the house from the garret to the basement. Hostesses used to take the precaution of locking the bedroom doors, and those of any other apartment they did not want their guests to enter. The Drexels were evidently unaware of this necessity, and failed to take the precaution.

**Gossips Are Busy.**

In these days not even a great American heiress can afford to pick and choose when it comes to matrimonial choice. But Margaretta Drexel is the exception. Hardly a week passes but society gossips assure each other that she is engaged to this or the other of the dozens of suitors who hover about her. Today it is the mature Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein, Prince Christian's only surviving son, who has won her; tomorrow it is Lord Herbert Vane-Tempest who has the honor. Again you will be assured that the young Duke of Leinster has been gaz-

ing at her with admiring eyes, or that that most confirmed of bachelors, Mr. Gillett, has succumbed to her witchery. Her charm of manner tells more than her actual beauty. In a room you will see her surrounded by a dozen or more men while other girls of her age will be in rows talking to each other. Yet no one could accuse her of being a flirt. Nor does she ever try to outlive her own sex. With girls and elder women she is extremely popular. Some one explained this by saying "Although she gets all the attention of the men she never gives the idea of wanting it, and, therefore, other girls of her age don't care."

Those who know her best say there is a curious mixture of mysticism and idealism in her composition, and that they would not be surprised if she made a very romantic marriage. It was these qualities which suggested a year or so ago that she was likely to become a nun. So devoted to her are her parents that they would be sure to make no objection to her choice in matrimony if they were sure it would make her happy. In fact, they have both said as much. At present, at all events, she is quite heart-whole—or says she is.

# FENCE OF GUN BARRELS SURROUNDS GEORGETOWN HOME

**Historic Old**  
Georgetown lays claim to the only fence in the world built of gun barrels, and there is little reason to doubt but that this claim will go undisputed.

More than half a century ago there lived in Georgetown a lock and gunsmith named Reuben Daw, whose shop was on M street in the business section. His large shop was packed with all kinds of pistols, guns, and knives, etc., which he had bought at different times, and many a trusty firearm bought from him may now be found in the old homes of Georgetown. These old citizens will say, "I bought that gun from Reuben Daw, and she's as good and true as the day I bought it."

There are old citizens who will remember the armory establishment at Harper's Ferry. Here was made the first breech-loading rifle, but which proved rather tricky and dangerous weapons. They were called the Hall rifles, a name given in compliment to the inventor. The gun was dangerous from the fact that soldiers often forgot to lower the eight-inch barrel, which worked on a hinge, and when the rifle was discharged it generally carried off a few fingers of the soldier. Some of these guns carried balls right to the point—a sure death messenger—but so many soldiers were injured by forgetting to lower the barrel that the rifle soon went out of use. Other makes of guns were turned out at the arsenal to take the place of the Hall rifles, and these were called in and stored.

**Seizure by John Brown.**

It was in the spring of 1859 that John Brown and his followers rented a small farm near Harper's Ferry, where they farmed and pretended to mine iron ore. John Brown had heard before leaving Kansas that a large shipment of guns was to be made from the armory to San Francisco, and it was his purpose to secure these guns if possible to equip his small army. When he was ready to make the capture of the arsenal, he and his followers marched into Harper's Ferry, taking possession of the armory gates and the principal streets leading to it. As the gunsmith came to work they were arrested and placed in the old fire engine house, which afterward became known as "John Brown's fort," and which is now one of the principal places of interest of that section.

After the John Brown insurrection the Government decided to dispose of the worthless guns at the armory,



and a public auction was held. Reuben Daw, the Georgetown gunsmith, attended the sale and bought a large number of the guns, having them shipped to his home. He sold a few of them, and then decided that he would utilize the stock on hand in building a fence around his two houses at the corner of Twenty-eighth and P streets, he then contacted the residence on the northwest corner. Mr. Daw took the barrels from the stock, and placed in the end of each barrel

a forked fancy topping, thus making upright iron and steel pickets about as substantial and attractive as any number of the guns, having them shipped to his home. He sold a few of them, and then decided that he would utilize the stock on hand in building a fence around his two houses at the corner of Twenty-eighth and P streets, he then contacted the residence on the northwest corner. Mr. Daw took the barrels from the stock, and placed in the end of each barrel

have been broken off by souvenir hunters, as have also been taken away many of the top pieces. The two old brick and stone dwellings are occupied by the families of Charles and Edward Daw, sons of the man who built the historic fence, a fence which brought forth one of the numerous "authentic and reliable" ghost stories of the ancient city. The story is related by a number of the old residents and all vouch for its truthfulness. It is related that soon after the

for more than thirty-five years has not been seen, though there are old colored people in Georgetown who will not go by "dat gun-bar" fence after dark.

**Witnesses Vouch for Story.**

Sergeant Hess, now well advanced in years, and one of the oldest members of the police force at that time, and now retired, is a living witness to the Continental uniformed ghost. He has stated that he saw it on more than one occasion, and that he knew many reputable citizens, most of them now dead, who had spent the quiet hour of midnight looking at it.

# WHAT IS DREADED LEPROSY?

(Continued from Third Page.)

In lepers are highly charged with bacilli, this is a pleasant prospect, indeed for the smoker. The bacilli are believed to have the power of becoming sores. In the latter form, these micro-organisms are extremely resistant and tenacious of life, so that so that infected articles and insects may so remain indefinitely. This sporulation would also account for the long period of incubation in the human body, which may be ever ten years.

**Germs Live Long.**

It is thus not necessary that fleas or other insects should bite at once. Fleas, who seem to live indefinitely in deserted houses, may thus infect newcomers in an old leper home, perhaps several years after his departure. Also their eggs and larvae. In this way, too, fish, when eaten raw, may be dangerous, the flesh being infected by the animal's devouring contaminated water-dwelling larvae or insects which leave fallen into the water.

In Molokai, where leprosy is rife, are hordes of dirty, many dogs running loose. When a dog is inoculated, the bacilli form a sore spot, and there focus, although they do not spread. Imagine the danger from such infected, flea-ridden beasts. In Havana, also, the dogs, filthy and sore, wander freely.

Actual contact of broken skin with a leper, particularly with excretion or sores, is undoubtedly dangerous. The sores might also be breathed from dust. But, either in breathing or swallowing the micro-organisms, it is most probable that somewhere in the respiratory or digestive tract, there must be a break in the lining membrane that the bacilli may reach the blood or lymph. Thus attendants or members of the family, not bitten by insects and not directly contaminated by some sore spot, may easily escape and, in fact, generally do so.

It is a strange fact that leprosy prevails less among the mixed (Anglo-Saxon) races than among the pure (Scandinavian) races. Nor does it appear of itself in a new community. It must be carried there from some other locality. Isolated cases appear, the insects of the country become infected, and the disease finally becomes epidemic. This is what is actually taking place in Louisiana, Florida, and Texas. In all of these States fleas are abundant. In the crowded city tenements and sweatshops, fleas, flies, lice, and bedbugs must be reckoned with, as well as the dogs, cats, and swarming rodents. The Norwegian colonies of New York and Chicago; the crowded Jewish quarters; the Syrian group; all are a menace because of unsanitary conditions. It is not impossible, also, that spores may be conveyed by water, since those who wash the clothes of hospital lepers are frequently contaminated. The clothing of lepers, either by vermin, or by spores, may be a fertile source of infection.

Thus it is seen that, while the spread of leprosy is a real and grave danger, it may be controlled, if taken in time. Also it is not necessary to make the life of the leper miserable beyond what the disease itself inflicts. In thoroughly sanitary conditions, away from the attacks of insects, he is not dangerous unless actually handled. Under such conditions there is no reason why he should not see those dear to him, if he refrain from touching them.

**Not Leprous Country.**

America is not yet a leprosy country, but, especially considering the Scandinavian immigration, the epidemic leprosy of the South and of the Philippines and our close connection of Cuba, the possibility of her becoming so is not remote. Now is the time to guard the ports, both from infected immigrants and vermin and to isolate the native cases. How many in-

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